Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the length?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The total length is 45 or 48 miles.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Is the Government aware that by completing the road, there will be larger income to the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Of course, Government are fully aware of that.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know what difficulty is there to complete this road entirely within another six months?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Government will be all the more glad to complete it as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: I am asking this question because I made enquiries and found that the sooner the road is finished, the better for all. Let us spend more money and put more work and complete it in six months.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There is no question of lack of money or labour. I think in certain portions, the road has to be aligned properly. That will take a little time.

Mr. President: During certain seasons of the year, the work cannot be proceeded with, for example, the bridge work. The season will not be fit.

SUPPLY OF FUEL—CONTRACT OF

31. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government has entered into any contract with any concern or individual to supply fuel from our Forests which will include trees which produce oil seeds?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Yes, with Messrs. The Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, Trichur, for the supply of 500 tons of fuel of Poovam, which is an oil seed producing species.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know, Sir, when this contract was entered into?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: Last year.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Is it before or after the fall of Burma?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: I cannot say the exact date.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the hon'ble member be pleased to give the exact date tomorrow?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: I can do so the day after to-morrow.

Mr C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether there are any more poovams remaining in the reserved forests?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: There is plenty of poovam. I may explain for the information of the hon'ble member that as a matter of fact none of these oil seeds are collected from the trees in the reserved forests, because the high cost of collection and transport. It is not an economic proposition.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Has the Government at any time invited tenders for the collection of oil-producing seeds from the reserved forests?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: No tenders for the right of collection of oil producing seeds alone have been called for, but those who take up the contract for the right of collection of minor forest produce can collect such seeds also if they care to.

ANNUAL COLLECTION OF OIL SEEDS—VALUE REALISED

32. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the total amount of the different varieties of oil seeds collected every year for the last 3 years from the forests quoting separately the different varieties and the quantity in each item as minor Forest Produce;

(*b*) the amount realised as the value of such oil seeds for the last 3 years?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests)*: (*a*) No information is available about the collection of any oil seeds from the reserve forests for the last 3 years. No permission has been sought for by any one or given for their collection during the period.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of answer to (*a*) above.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the hon'ble member be pleased not to cut and remove any more oil-producing trees from the forests.

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